

CLAIMS

1. An electronic camera comprising:
 - an image-capturing element that captures an image of a subject and outputs image data of the captured subject
 - 5 image;
 - a compression processing unit that compresses the image data by converting the image data to a spatial frequency DC component and a spatial frequency AC component and by quantizing and coding the two components, wherein:
 - 10 said compression processing unit includes:
 - a quantization ratio determining processing unit that determines a ratio of a DC component quantization step and an AC component quantization step (DC/AC quantization ratio) in correspondence to a target compression rate;
 - 15 a quantization adjustment processing unit that makes an adjustment on said DC component quantization step and said AC component quantization step while sustaining the DC/AC quantization ratio at a substantially constant value; and
 - a compression rate control processing unit that
 - 20 controls said quantization adjustment processing unit so that a compression code volume resulting from the compression can be within a range according to a target compression rate.
 2. An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein:
 - 25 said quantization ratio determining processing unit

adjusts the DC/AC quantization ratio to a smaller value as the target compression rate is set higher.

3. An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein:
 - 5 said quantization ratio determining processing unit fixes the DC/AC quantization ratio at a constant value regardless of the target compression rate when the target compression rate is set higher than a predetermined value.
- 10 4. An image processing program for compressing image data by quantizing and coding a DC component and an AC component, comprising:
 - 15 DCT processing in which the image data are converted to a spatial frequency DC component and a spatial frequency AC component;
 - quantization ratio determining processing in which a ratio of a DC component quantization step and an AC component quantization step (DC/AC quantization ratio) is determined in correspondence to a target compression rate;
 - 20 quantization adjustment processing in which said DC component quantization step and said AC quantization step are adjusted while sustaining the DC/AC quantization ratio at a substantially constant value; and
 - compression rate control processing in which control
 - 25 is implemented on the quantization adjustment processing so

that a compression code volume resulting from the compression can be within a range according to a target compression rate.

5. A recording medium having recorded therein an image
5 processing program according to claim 4.

6. A signal that transmits an image processing program
according to claim 4 through a communication line.

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